

Dear Co-Chair Kennedy, Co-Chair Miner, Co-Chair Demicco, Vice Chair Flexer, Vice Chair Gresko, Vice Chair Somers, Ranking Member Harding, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

I care about animals, including wildlife, and I vote.

Please accept this public hearing testimony for the following 5 bills, and a request to bring up HB 5615 (which would allow towns to ban trapping):

- 1) Please **OPPOSE SB 522** -- would allow bear hunting, which I strongly oppose.
- 2) Please **OPPOSE HB 5499** – which would expand Sunday hunting to allow use of shotguns, rifles, and muzzleloaders. I want a day to enjoy the woods in peace for myself and my black lab Missey. I don't want to see an injured animal suffering. I thought bow hunting on Sunday's was a travesty and now this? Enough is enough. What about all of us who don't hunt. What about our rights?
- 3) Please **SUPPORT HB 6335 -- ivory sales ban**, which I strongly support, will clamp down on illegal ivory and rhino horn sales by prohibiting the sale of ivory and rhino horn within Connecticut. We need to take action before the African elephant disappears from this planet forever and for what, a few trinkets? Let's put those artifacts in a museum as a reminder and stop the ivory trade before extinction which is imminent.
- 4) Please **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS, SB 942 -- Cecil's law**, anti -trophy hunting.

Amendment recommendations: please see testimony submitted by The HSUS, which include details on making sure that federal law does not pre-empt our efforts, and making sure that this bill does not weaken existing CT law.

I support anti- trophy hunting measures which speak to bygone days “before” we knew the impact on the world's big game. Now we know what's at stake so let's act accordingly.

- 5) Please **SUPPORT HB 6334** which would require registration for all brick-and-mortar animal shelters and allow for inspections and creation of regulations that define standards of care. This would potentially allow for early interventions that can serve to remedy problems before they escalate into conditions that would warrant prosecution under animal cruelty statutes (CGS 53-247), both preventing animal suffering and saving taxpayer dollars associated with prosecution of cruelty cases.

6) Finally, in these last days of public hearings, I ask that you consider **bringing up HB 5615 for a public hearing**. HB 5615 would give local control to allow municipalities to determine whether or not they want to ban trapping. Trapping is cruel and indiscriminate (dogs, cats, and birds are often caught in these traps), and not effective in curbing undesired behavior.

Yours truly,

Lori Nicholson

Branford, CT